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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Josephine Leah Bulger Lewis of Chicago, who passed away on February 19, 2008; and

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WHEREAS, She was born on March 9, 1928, the second oldest of six children born to Idella Atkins and Horace Ward Bulger, Sr., in Chicago; she grew up on the South Side of Chicago where she attended Cosmopolitan Community Church; Josephine confessed her belief in Jesus Christ at an early age, was baptized, and began her Christian journey; she attended Doolittle Elementary School and graduated Valedictorian of her eighth grade class; she continued her education at Englewood High School and Wilson Junior College; she met her beloved husband John Lewis II and after a short courtship they were married at Cosmopolitan Community Church on June 22, 1947; and

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WHEREAS, Josephine continued her education at Roosevelt University where she completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education in 1965 while working at Illinois Bell Telephone Company; after graduation, Josephine taught at Stagg Elementary School for a few years; while a member at Arnette A.M.E. Church, she developed a close relationship with Reverend Evelyn Hooks, who suggested to Josephine to pray and ask God for His will; through prayer and supplication Josephine

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1 received the answer to her prayer and was set apart as a  
2 Deaconess in the African Methodist Church in 1977; and

3 WHEREAS, In the early 80's Josephine and John transferred  
4 their membership to Maple Park United Methodist Church, where  
5 she became active in various ministries in the church,  
6 including the Chancel Choir, Building Fund Committee, United  
7 Methodist Women, Stephen's Ministry, and Worship Committee;  
8 she completed the training required by the Northern Illinois  
9 Conference and was the first Deaconess in the Northern Illinois  
10 Conference; and

11 WHEREAS, She founded Phoebe's Place, a senior drop-in  
12 center, over 20 years ago, in Maple Park United Methodist  
13 Church; Hidden Treasures was established in 1996, a day care  
14 center for those suffering with Alzheimer's Disease; she  
15 received many awards and honors for her hard work, including  
16 being named the Coca Cola Person of the Month; named by Mayor  
17 Daley and the Chicago Department on Aging as an  
18 African-American History Making Senior; saluted by Channel 5  
19 (NBC Chicago) with a Lifetime Achievement and Commitment to  
20 Enhancing Lives to Citizens in Chicago; and she was honored by  
21 Channel 7's (ABC Chicago) Harry Porterfield, who saluted Jo as  
22 Someone You Should Know; and

23 WHEREAS, She was preceded in death by her son John H. Lewis

1 III; and

2 WHEREAS, Josephine Lewis is survived by her husband, John  
3 H. Lewis II; her son, Ronald K. Lewis (Doris Lewis); her  
4 daughter, Cheryl P. Lewis; her beloved daughter-in-law, Vivian  
5 M. Lewis; her two granddaughters, Kimberly Davis and Sequoya  
6 Lewis; her great-granddaughter, Christian A.M. Davis; her  
7 sister, Patricia Bell-Phillips (Romeo); her brother, Horace W.  
8 Bulger II; a host of nieces and nephews, great nieces and  
9 nephews, several cousins, and a host of close friends;  
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
13 her family and friends, the passing of Josephine Lewis; and be  
14 it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to the family of Josephine Lewis as a symbol of our  
17 sincere sympathy.